

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

The Rural District Council of Wath.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1945.

Metcalfes & Harper, *Printers*, North Street,
RIPON.

ANNUAL REPORT

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of
Wath, N.R. Yorks.

Gentlemen,

I again have the honour to present an abridged Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1945, for the area of the Rural District of Wath.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	16997
Population (census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	2088
do estimated Midsummer 1944	...	...	...	...	...	1936
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	519
Live Births :—				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	20	14	34
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	5	1	6
					Total	40
Still Births :—				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	-	1	1
					Total	2
Live Birth Rate,	1945—20.7.					
	per 1000 of the estimated population.					
Still Birth Rate,	1945—0.46					
	per 1000 total live and still births.					

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	9	14	23
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—					
Legitimate	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	-	-	-
Total					2

Death Rate, 1945—11.9.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

Total Infantile Mortality per 1000 Live Births ... 50.0

Illegitimate Children deaths under one year of age
per 1000 illegitimate live births ... —

No deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

No excessive mortality.

No deaths from Childbirth.

„ Puerperal Sepsis
„ other Puerperal causes.

Deaths from Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1.
„ Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	...	...	...	...	1.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

HOSPITALS.

A. FEVER :—

Council's Joint Hospital.

B. SMALL POX :—Nil—Under North Riding County Council control.

The Isolation Hospital situated at Ripon, is one mile from this Council's boundary, and is jointly held by this Council, Ripon Borough Council, and Ripon and Pateley Bridge Rural District Council.

There is ample accommodation in the Hospital for all fever cases.

C. TUBERCULOSIS :—

N.R. County Council provides all services for all branches of Tuberculosis cases.

D. MATERNITY :—

Also provided by N.R. County Council.

E. CHILDREN :—

Ripon, Harrogate Hospitals.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

A. Infectious Diseases Ambulance.

B. Non-Infectious cases and Accidents conveyed by separate Ambulance.

C. Maternity cases by the Ambulance at (*B*).

Both Ambulances are stationed at Ripon, and jointly provided by the adjoining Councils.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

(*a*) F. STOCKTON GOWLAND, Clerk to Wath R.D.C., 5, Finkle Street, Ripon. Telephone Ripon 576.

(*b*) T. CARTER MITCHELL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Topcliffe, Thirsk. Telephone Topcliffe 230.

(*c*) WILLIAM WATSON, A.M.I.C.E., Cert. R.S. Inst., North End, Northallerton. Telephone Northallerton 164.

NURSING.

Four North Riding District Nurses practice daily throughout the area.

All Notifiable Infectious Cases are removed to Council's Joint Isolation Hospital.

Four North Riding Midwives officiate throughout the Council's area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Efficiently and promptly supplied by the E.P.H. Laboratory, Northallerton, under North Riding County Council direction.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

During past three years immunization has been systematically carried out throughout the Council's area. Sessions are held twice yearly for each village. The response has been most encouraging, and the results excellent. A high standard of 80—84% has been maintained through the District Nurses' instrumentality in canvassing the parents.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

There are eleven (11) townships in this Council's area.

Ten (10) of these have a good piped water supply.

One village was provided with an extension of a piped supply from an adjoining village.

Throughout the year there was a full supply of water of good quality and quantity in each of the provided townships.

Specimens from each supply were taken and submitted to Bacteriological examination by Emergency Public Health Laboratory, North Riding, Yorks.

Towards the end of the year the privately owned public water supply at Marton-le-Moor was queried by the Bacteriologist as to its possible contamination. Repeated specimens were submitted for further examination but no definite pollution was found. These frequent examinations will be continued on the Bacteriologist's instructions.

The village of Baldersby, with a population of 230 was, during the year, supplied with an extension from the adjoining village of Melmerby reservoir with a piped supply of excellent purity. The length of the pipe track was approximately one mile. The installation of this new supply became imperative as two of the three village pumps showed grave pollution. These wells were old open brick ones and easy of pollution. There now remains only the scattered few houses at Norton Conyers which comprise the remaining township without a piped supply.

The Hutton Conyers village water supply gave frequent trouble with its volume of water owing to defects and faults in the ram or the reservoir. The purity of the supply was maintained through the year. The recurrences of trouble in this village supply are yearly ones and may call for consideration of an alternative source.

DRAINAGE.

The Melmerby sewage ditch from Melmerby village was a source of complaints from the Government Establishment, just beyond the Council's boundary. Attention was frequently given to it, but the difficulty of dealing satisfactorily with this effluent is the too small treatment tank for the present day's increased demand upon it, and the great depth of the effluent ditch rendering its cleaning difficult.

The Council sanctioned the laying of a new sewer at Asenby for the new Council houses to be built there and to replace the old tile sewer which was the only means for the village sewerage.

All the Council's sewage ditches received regular and satisfactory attention both in supervision and cleaning.

SCAVENGING.

In spite of frequent advertising the village of Wath was the only village out of eleven townships to secure a tender to contract for scavenging. This was put in action during the year.

MILK SUPPLY.

No public Dairies exist. Much milk is produced by registered Dairymen and Cow Keepers in the Council's area. A large quantity is collected and conveyed to the North Riding Milk Depot at Northallerton. Cleanliness is still difficult to enforce as also is supervision, owing to the scattered points of production. Now that each village and many farms have their own ample water supply, and farm labour becomes more available, this lack of cleanliness and enforcement of the order and regulations in force must be insisted upon.

HOUSING.

The "scrutiny" survey of 1944 was ordered by the Council to be undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health in preparation for a Housing Scheme to be launched at the end of hostilities.

This survey which called for very many examinations and special visits were methodically carried out during the period of July to October, 1944, and was presented to the Council.

A signed copy of full particulars gathered from this large undertaking was given in full in my Annual Report for 1944.

The Council, towards the end of the year 1945, decided to tackle the large number of "unfit" (43), and "incapable" houses (95) revealed in the scrutiny survey of the previous year. They decided to launch a small programme owing to shortage of labour, materials and restrictions. At this stage of their housing scheme for the whole of the Council's area. Twelve houses were decided upon as their first step—4 at Dishforth, 4 at Rainton, 2 at Asenby, and 2 at Melmerby. With the completion of the war, the demand for houses became very acute as the population returned to civil life. Several more new houses and many reconstructed houses will be needed to satisfy this demand and to replace the unsuitable dwellings and to comply with the over-crowding Act to remove cases of unavoidable overcrowding.

There are 519 inhabited houses in the Council's area.

Beyond a severe outbreak of measles in the first months of the year the incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases was low, there being two scarlet fever cases and one of diphtheria. There was no mortality from any of the above cases.

The services provided by the Council proved adequate and worked smoothly through, of course, owing to the inactivity enforced by the war and its immediate aftermath no forward action was possible.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. CARTER MITCHELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

Rural District of Wath, North Riding, Yorks.



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